

Meadows Building
Dallas 6, Texas

Inside Labor

RIESEL: The Friends and
Times of Jack Ruby
By Victor Riesel

WASHINGTON, D. C. — For days I have been wandering through the life and times of Jack Ruby, indicted for the murder of the murderer of John Kennedy.

I have been in a snake pit through which have slithered such characters as "Needlenose" Labriola, Paul Jones, goons from Joe Valachi's Cosa Nostra and killers and con-men out of the Chicago Capone combine.

I have found that Ruby's night spot at one time was a haunt of Chicago hoods who came to Dallas to "case it" for its possible "take." They decided they could take at least \$18 million a year out of the city from rackets and other operations.

Their gall was matched only by their arrogance and disdain. One of them suggested that to prove their toughness they murder four local gamblers, put their bodies in a car and leave it outside police headquarters.

Jones, who was friendly with Ruby in prison, had broad horizons. One Dallas police lieutenant later told that McClellan committee that Jones had told him that the group planned to take every truck driver in the U. S. Jones said: "When we do that, we can bring industry to its knees, and even the government if we have to . . ."

Restaurants Terrorized

The hoods terrorized restaurant operators. They forced some owners to buy meat from them at prices higher than the market. How? By cutting off linen supplies — and workers.

But they reached too far, too hard. Jones tried to bribe a sheriff. He was convicted. "Chicago" became disgusted. The others were recalled. "Needlenose" wound up dead with a tight wire around his throat in the back of a car.

But Chicago never held any terror for Jack Ruby. Back in 1937, Ruby was so cocky that he stepped in where the wise ones are loath to tread.

Ruby knew a lawyer called Leon Cook, to whom he suggested they organize a so-called "union" in an unorganized area. It was indicated there would be no difficulty getting a federal charter from the old AFL.

They got their charter — local 24647, Waste Material Handlers union. Ruby was secretary. He and Cook worked hard. Someone decided Cook was working too hard and eased his pain with some bullets on Dec. 8, 1939. Ruby stayed on for a while. Then the AFL regional office removed him. Out of nowhere came the new secretary-treasurer — Paul ("Red") Dorfman, buddy of Jimmie Hoffa.

"Red" Dorfman, an ex-gag, had no difficulties for a long while. Then came the McClellan committee. Its chief counsel, Robert Kennedy, decided to probe this friend and intimate of Jim Hoffa. To this investigation Kennedy assigned one James McShane, who today is chief of the federal marshals.

Committee Hears McShane

On Jan. 29, 1939, Kennedy put McShane on the Senate committee witness stand.

Kennedy asked: "... Do you have some information that would summarize your investigation, as well as the investigations that have been conducted by other government departments?"

McShane replied: "According to our investigation, Paul Dorfman is a major figure in the Chicago underworld. He is an associate of most of the leading gangsters in the Chicago area. He is the contact man between dishonest union leaders and members of the Chicago underworld. . . ."

And then McShane continued: "... Of Mr. Dorfman's criminal and other associates, there is one Anthony "Tony" Accardo, known as the head of the Chicago mob since the death of Al Capone. Another is Abraham Tenzelbaum, former attorney for the Capone mob. Another is Abner ("Longy") Zwillman, a top figure in the American underworld. . . ."

At the end of 1937, Dorfman was ousted from the Waste Handlers union by labor's national office here. But soon he was organizing for a Teamster local in Chicago.

When last heard from he was in the Palm Springs sunshine. He said he thought Jack Ruby was a "real nice guy."

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1963

Meadows Building
Dallas 6, Texas

Supper Table Talk

By John Ayres

It's Either This Column or Brand "X"

MOST INTERESTING ITEM this column picked up today: Mrs. T. M. Edwards of Beaumont, alert and active 87-year-old mother of Port Arthur Buick Dealer Frank Edwards, has driven a 1925 Ford Model T car daily since the day she steered it away from the showroom 38 years ago and still does (except on rainy days). Does all her own marketing in the antique vehicle, which runs swell!

ROY MCCOLLUM IS THE FIRST person in 40 years I've heard refer to the University of Texas as "State," as he did in mentioning last week's State-A&M game. . . . A justice of the peace "court of inquiry" as now being proposed in Dallas in the assassination of President Kennedy, is rare indeed in Texas, Port Arthur lawyers point out. They note that the only one they recall in this county involved a barratry probe growing out of a New York attorney's alleged activities in litigation stemming from the sinking of the "Marine Sulphur Queen" early this year. Justice Wallace McCasland conducted the little known proceedings. . . . Looks like it was my old friend, former City Commissioner A. J. Stephens, who was kind enough to send me the Johannesburg, South Africa, newspaper with the account of Mr. Kennedy's assassination—his sister at Port Neches says A. J. (on a construction job for Fluor) gets The News and sent her a copy of the S. A. paper in the same mail as mine came in. . . .

PHOTOGRAPHER FRANK CRICCHIO doesn't mind a bit when people mistake his youthful-looking dad, Grocer Joe Cricchio, for his brother, but it does upset Frank a trifle when somebody inquires if Joe is his YOUNGER brother. . . . Port Arthur Jaycees will feté Police Director Ralph Tolve with a coffee Tuesday afternoon at the Goodhue hotel's Petroleum room (on the mezzanine), an appropriate gesture, and the public is invited—details due tomorrow. . . . Speaking of the Jaycees, whatever happened to that "attitude survey" they were conducting among Port Arthureans and their neighbors—was it just a good idea that went wrong? Hope not. . . . After hearing that Secret Service men accompany Lynda Bird, elder daughter of the LBJs', on dates, cute Mary Beth Beauchamp, TJHS senior, cautioned her dad, "Listen, don't YOU ever run for President!" . . .

THE WORD IS that it was a Chicago syndicate that Jack Ruby, the Dallas gunslinger, was representing when he tried unsuccessfully to get his foot in the Port Arthur door (and did you read some of the background on J. R. in Vic Riesel's column in Monday's News?)...

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